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Message Text

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50
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 ARA-16 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 IO-14 EB-11 EA-11

/175 W
---------- 050739
R 221245Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2440
INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
ZEN AMCONSULATE DOUALA (BY POUCH)

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 0241

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CM, EK, CU
SUBJECT: EXPANDING CUBAN PRESENCE IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA

1. SUMMARY: CUBAN PRESENCE IN E.G. HAS EXPANDED CONSIDERABLY SINCE OCTOBER 1973 WHEN CUBAN DIPLOMATIC MISSION ESTABLISHED. PRESENCE VIEWED LOCALLY AS SERVING SOVIET DESIGNS.

2. FOLLOWING IS BASED ON INFORMATION OBTAINED BY CONSUL CLARKE DURING RECENT VISIT TO MALABO, PRIMARILY FROM CONTACTS IN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES.

A. DURING COURSE OF PAST THREE MONTHS, CUBAN PRESENCE IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA HAS VASTLY EXPANDED FROM ONE OR TWO DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL TO APPROXIMATELY 135 INDIVIDUALS. ACCORDING TO ESTIMATES OF SPANISH EMBASSY AT MALABO, THIS FIGURE BREAKS DOWN AS FOLLOWS: TWO AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS; FOUR MEDICAL PERSONNEL; TWO TELEVISION EXPERTS; 30 TEACHERS; FIVE DIPLOMATS; 77 POLITICAL/MILITARY ADVISORS
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AND 15 DEPENDENTS OF THE FOREGOING. THESE NUMBERS MAY SOON

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INCREASE BY ONE HUNDRED OR MORE FOLLOWING THE EXPECTED ARRIVAL OF TWO MORE AIRCRAFT FROM HAVANA ON 20 AND 30 JANUARY.

B. DRAMATIC INCREASE IN CUBAN INTEREST IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA HAS BEEN GREETED WITH CONSIDERABLE CONCERN BY DIPLOMATIC REPS IN MALABO. THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR BELIEVES CUBANS ARE PART OF PLAN MASTERMINDED BY SOVIET EMBASSY TO RID GUINEA OF LAST VESTIGES OF SPANISH INFLUENCE. HE OFFERED OTHER EXAMPLES OF THIS POLICY (INCLUDING ONE IN WHICH AFRIPESCA, SUBSIDIARY OF LARGE SPANISH FISH COMPANY, PESCANOVA, IS NOW PERMITTED SELL ONLY RUSSIAN FISH), BUT HE BELIEVES THAT SPANISH GOVT MAY NOT YET SAVE DETERIORATING SITUATION BY LARGE CAPITAL INPUT. CAMEROON AMB NOTED THAT HE HAS INFORMED HIS GOVT OF DEVELOPMENT, AND THAT HE BELIEVES THAT OPERATION MAY MASK CERTAIN MEMBERS OF OUTLAWED UPC WHO HAVE SPENT SEVERAL YEARS IN CUBA. AMB NJOYA ASKED FOR US ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING ANY POSSIBLE RENEGADE CAMEROONIAN PRESENCE AMONG THE CUBANS (WE HAVE BEEN PROVIDED SOME FLIGHT MANIFESTS BY TWO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES). BOTH SPANISH AND CAMEROONIAN AMB INFORMED CONSUL THAT THEY RECEIVED VISITS FROM CHINESE AMB, WHO WISHED TO SOUND THEM OUT AS TO THEIR CONCERN ABOUT CUBAN PRESENCE. CHINESE AMB WAS REPORTEDLY QUITE CATEGORIC IN HIS OPINION THAT CUBAN PROGRAM MASKED A SOVIET EFFORT TO SUBVERT EQUATORIAL GUINEA AND CHINESE AID PROJECTS.

C. CUBAN FISHING TRAWLER "M.V. LAMDA," HAD BEEN IN PORT OF MALABO FOR SEVERAL DAYS (AS OF JAN 17). EQUIPPED WITH A LARGE RADAR SOUNDER ON FRONT DECK AND WITH SEVERAL HIGH GAIN ANTENNAE, VESSEL IS CONSIDERED BY MOST OBSERVERS (ALL UNQUALIFIED) TO BE DIRECTLY RELATED TO SOVIET FISHING PORT PROJECT (SEPTEL) AND IS NO DOUBT ENGAGED IN VARIOUS KINDS OF INTELLIGENCE WORK.

3. COMMENT: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY IN MALABO OBLIGED TO LEAD A VERY SHELTERED EXISTENCE AND HENCE WE TEND TO ACCEPT ITS REPORTS AND INTERPRETATIONS WITH A CERTAIN CAUTION. EMBASSY BELIEVES SPANIARDS PERHAPS HAVE REASON FOR GREATEST CONCERN OVER CUBAN DEVELOPMENT. COMMON LANGUAGE AND TRADE HAVE BEEN TIES WHICH HITHERTO HAVE FORCED A CONTINUED SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SPAIN AND E.G. WHILE MACIAS IS CERTAINLY DEDICATED TO

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ENDING FORMER COLONIAL DOMINATION, EMBASSY CONSIDERED HIM A GUINEAN NATIONALIST WHO HAS BEEN RECEPTIVE TO AID OFFERS FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES BUT SHOWS NO TENDENCY TOWARDS SUBSERVIENCE. THAT IS NOT TO SAY THAT DRAMATICALLY INCREASING CUBAN PRESENCE AND ACTIVITY DO NOT PRESENT USUAL RISKS THAT CUBAN, AND INDIRECTLY SOVIET, INTERESTS WILL BE SERVED.
MOORE

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